

## ADVICE FROM MENARD.

The New York Age's Witty Correspondent Talks to Newspaper Men Editor Cooper the World's Eighth Wonder

Despite the fact that there are 90,000 Negroes in Washington city, the race newspaper here has never been a decided success. In fact, the National capital is a veritable graveyard of colored journals. Your correspondent "has been around and about this vale of tears" for over twenty years and stood on the sidewalk with bared head, while the cortege of defunct Negro journals passed before his vision. I will not attempt to enumerate the vast array of miscarriages of race journals in this city, but will pay my respects to existing, but staggering, contemporaries.



Beyond all cavil, Col. Edward E. Cooper, proprietor of the Colored American, is the "eighth wonder of the world." He swims in a desert and sails in a calm. His success "passeth beyond all human understanding." Embarking in the journalistic field in this city, some nine years ago, Col. Cooper has passed through all the vicissitudes attending Negro journalistic longevity. He has dumbfounded his foes and startled his friends by his successes. Cooper has inaugurated many new features in our journalism, such as "Men of the Minute" and "Has Beens of the Past." Col. W. Calvin Chase, of the Washington Bee, has improved his journal to some extent. Chase should change the name of his paper to the "Knocker." In every issue is a "knock" upon somebody, but no one answers the bell. The "They Say" column in the Bee smells of the fish-market and loudly appeals to the Board of Health. The Record is making a "Manly" fight and has "back-pedaled" into the mediaeval age to find a Cromwell to bolster up public opinion and sentiment.

Our local newspapers all assert a heavy circulation. No one cares to dispute it. It reminds us of a tale connected with a struggling Ohio editor, who conducted a boiler-plate journal at Canton. A friend met the embarrassed editor and inquired, "How is your circulation?" The editor replied: "My paper goes all through Ohio, it goes all through the United States, and, in fact, I was compelled to mortgage my home last week to keep it from going to Hades."

Our local journals must "get on" to themselves if they would succeed. They must discard cheap rot from their columns and deal with live issues. The day of the journalistic fakir is over. The Negro journalist in this city must forsake "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain" in order to succeed. He must eschew personalities and give his readers general news. He must cease to be a dumping-ground for grievances and an outlet for spite and vituperation. As a parting shot, we warn our surviving editors to steer clear of a yawning grave.—W. T. Menard in The New York Age.

## MUSICAL MELANGE.

Mme. Decaria Pisto is singing in concert in the principal cities of California.

Mrs. Frances A. Lester of K street northwest, is growing in popularity as a teacher of music.

St. Luke's quartet has no superior in the city. It is made up of Dr. J. T. Walker, Mr. W. H. Fossett and Misses Nettie Murray and Marie James.

Well, Miss Harriet Gibbs pronounces it "He awatha" and Miss Addie Wormley and Dr. W. H. Conner stick to the old fashioned "Hi." Which is correct?

Prof. J. H. Douglass is to appear March the twenty seventh at St.

Paul's A. M. E. church and Social Settlement, Portland street, Cambridge, Mass.

A very promising glee club has been organized at the Manual Training School, under the direction of Mr. Ford Dabney. A well trained orchestra is also an attraction at this school. Both will make a public appearance soon.

Were it not for the shortsightedness of our capitalists and lodges, Washington's colored people would have a hall large enough to accommodate the great "Hiawatha" production that is now under rehearsal. As it is, we must hire a theater that the proprietor will rent to us, after much persuasion and many misgivings.

Miss Eve Elizabeth Roosa, said to be the first colored lady to be graduated from the New England Conservatory, where she was a member of the class of 1890, made her debut in a recital at Boston last week. The hall was filled with the friends and admirers of the young lady. Miss Roosa was at her best and her performance at the piano was tasteful and true.

Mr. Guillaume J. Bell a basso profundo of remarkable power and range has opened a school of music. His studio is at 411 E street northeast and he resides on Linden street. He made quite a hit last week at the Congressional Club's reception and was a strong feature of the Orpheus concert Friday evening. Besides being a singer of ability, he has had considerable experience as a character actor.

There is talk of a quartet contest among the high-grade artists, the prize to be four gold medals. A fight to a finish between such quartets as the Amphions, the Orpheus, St. Luke's, 19th Street Baptist, the Philharmonic, Metropolitan and Lincoln Temple would pack any auditorium that could be secured. The Colored American nominates Profs. J. Henry Lewis, R. W. Tompkins and J. T. Layton to inquire into the feasibility of such an entertainment.

## When the March Wind Blows.

They begin to blow early in the March number of that remarkable publication, "Broadway Magazine." There is wind and blow and life, to say nothing of color that is not dismal, in the front page. Then comes a remarkable series of illustrated articles, comprising: The Fire Fighters of New York, Sarah Bernhardt's Latest Folly, How a New York Clubman Lives, In Gay Paree, Plays Seen in New York, Stories of Society, The New \$12,000,000 Bridge to Brooklyn, American Dramatic Critics Criticized, Broadway at Night, and a special story supplement containing vivid stories of life and flesh and blood. March "Broadway Magazine" is especially noteworthy from the fact that it contains more illustrations of pretty women than any other magazine on the stands, which is remarkable in these days of profuse illustrations. All news-stands. Ten cents a copy, \$1.00 a year. Broadway Magazine Co., 129 West Forty-second street, New York.

## BEAR IN MIND.

Palm Sunday March the twenty-third.

Good Friday, March the twenty-eighth.

Easter Sunday, March the thirtieth.

The holy days will be appropriately observed by all the churches.

## THE GRAND FOUNTAIN.

# United Order of True Reformers.

ORGANIZED January 1, 1881

Office 604, 606 and 608 N. 2nd St., - - Richmond, Va.

An order devoted to the interests of its members, both in their home and business relations. We offer you an opportunity for gilt edged business investment, in enterprises owned and controlled by the Order and managed by colored men, who are members of the Order.

If you are sound in health and mind, of good moral character, not younger than three (3) years nor older than sixty (60) you are eligible to membership. There are two Fountains, the Subordinate and the Rosebud.

## SUBORDINATE FOUNTAINS.

To join the Subordinate Fountain you must be between 14 and 18 years of age. You pay \$4.00 to \$6.00 (according to age,) as joining fee. If you live in the country you pay 35 cents per month as dues; if in the city, 50 cents per month. You pay as taxes 80 cents per month.

As Sick Benefits you receive from \$6.00 to \$9.00 per month, in weekly payments.

As Death Benefit, your family receives \$75.00 if you die within a year. After one year the Death Benefit is \$125.00.

## ROSEBUD FOUNTAINS.

To join the Rosebud Fountain you must be between 8 and 14 year of age. You pay \$1.00, either cash or by installments. The monthly dues are either 15 or 25 cents as Fountains may decide. The annual tax is 10 cents. You receive as Sick Benefit from \$1.50 to \$4.00 per month, in weekly payments.

As Death Benefit, your family will be paid \$24.50 if you die within a year. After one year the Death Benefit is \$37.

In the INSURANCE DEPARTMENT, there are Three (3) Classes:—Class B, Class E, and Class M. All dues payable annually or quarterly.

In Class B, the age limit is 14 to 60 years. Fee, \$2.50 to \$4.25. Annual dues, \$4.75 to \$7.60. The Certificate is valued first year at from \$100 to \$33. After one year, its value is \$200 to \$65.

In Class E, the age limit is 14 to 55 years. Fee, \$5 to \$6.50. Annual dues, \$9.50 to \$11.40. The Certificate is valued first year at from \$250 to \$175. After one year its value is \$500 to \$300.

In Class M, the age limit is 14 to 50 years. Fee \$11 to \$13.50. Annual dues \$21 to \$25. The certificate is valued from date of issue at from \$1,000 to \$700.

You are entitled to a Life Membership in either of the Fountains or in Classe B and E upon purchase of the required amount of Bank stock, which pays a dividend annually of 20 per cent.

The Grand Fountain United Order of True Reformers has paid up to July 29, 1900, a total of \$782 Death Benefits, with a grand total of \$521,264.75, over a HALF MILLION DOLLARS.



THE BANK.—In our Savings Bank the Order has a sound and flourishing institution that is a credit not only to the Order but to the race as well. It began business April 3, 1889. The capital stock is \$100,000. The business is the same as that of any other regularly constituted bank, and is surrounded by the same safeguards. The stock sells for \$5.00 a share to members, and pays 20 per cent. dividends. Both time and demand deposits are received and 4 per cent. interest is paid on time deposits. The following is a copy of the Cashier's report to Auditor of Public Accounts of Virginia at close of business Sept., 5, 1900 and shows its flourishing condition:—

## RESOURCES.

Loans and discounts .....	\$8,372 80
Other stock, bonds and mortgages .....	164,428 88
Due from National Banks ...	48,388 22
Banking House .....	14,000 00
Other real estates .....	98,588 00
Furniture and Fixtures .....	6,850 00
Current expenses and taxes paid .....	1,388 99
Specie, nickels and cents ...	12,399 80
Paper currency .....	35,820 00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>391,120 84</b>

## LIABILITIES.

Capital stock paid in .....	88,125 00
Surplus fund .....	80,957 81
Undivided profits .....	6,826 80
Demand certificate of deposit .....	96,786 29
Time certificates of deposit .....	118,424 74
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>391,120 84</b>

The Reformer's Grocery and Feed Store is located at 501 North Sixth St., Richmond, Va., and members of the Order and the public generally are saved 90 per cent. on the cost of food products.

THE REFORMER is the newspaper published by the order from its own office in Richmond, Va. It stands for the voice of the people, representing co-operation and combination of the race and is the Beacon Light, the Headlight, the General Messenger and the General Agent of the Brotherhood. It is \$1.00 per year. A well-equipped job office bids for the work of the people, which is turned out in first class style and at low prices.

Six miles from Richmond, in Henrico County, Va., the Order has purchased 634 acres of land, and established thereon an "Old Folk's Home." With unexampled liberality and broad-minded generosity, the Order does not limit entrance to this home to its members alone, nor even to members families, but the doors are opened to the aged and decrepid of the whole race, regardless of their residence or connections. The Order makes itself the trustee for this glorious charity, and calls upon the whole people, black and white, North, East, South and West to assist by their contribution the carrying out of this praiseworthy idea. April 3rd of each year is set apart as a Grand Rally Day for the Home. Contributions can be forwarded to the cashier of the Reformer's Savings Bank, who will send receipt for same and account for it to The Grand Fountain.

Members of the Order and the public, when visiting Richmond, Va., are invited to stop at The Hotel Reformer, 900 North Sixth St. It is in a pleasant and desirable location. Service is of the best and rates are reasonable.

The Real Estate Department manages and controls all property interests of the Order. The Order now owns 13 buildings, 4 farms, 4 dwellings, 1 home with a fee simple value of \$123,500. In addition to these the Order leases buildings.

For any further information, address.

WM. L. TAYLOR, W. M. Master.

BELL, G. W. Secretary